

CLAIMS

I claim:

1. A method for mounting at least one item to a gunwale of a boat comprising:

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- a) placing a first clamp part adjacent a first side of a gunwale of a boat;
- b) placing a second clamp part adjacent a second side of the gunwale; and
- 10 c) fastening the first clamp part and the second clamp part together to form a clamp including:
 - d) placing a nose part of the first clamp part adjacent a shoulder portion of the second clamp part; and
 - e) placing a nose part of the second clamp part adjacent a shoulder portion of the first clamp part.

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20 2. The method according to claim 1, wherein in step (c) the fastened first clamp part and second clamp part form an aperture including an opening portion that extends around the

gunwale, wherein the aperture further includes a stem portion that extends adjacent each side of a portion of a hull of the boat which is in operative connection with the gunwale.

3. The method according to claim 2, wherein in step (c), a width of the stem portion is
5 narrower than the width of the gunnel.

4. The method according to claim 3, wherein step (c) includes:

10 f) locking the first and second clamp parts together with at least one fastener.

5. The method according to claim 4, wherein in step (f) the fastener is positioned through an aperture that extends through both the first and second clamp parts, wherein the first clamp part is operative to pivot with respect to the second clamp part about the fastener,
15 wherein the shoulder portion of each of the first and second clamp parts are operative to contact the adjacent nose parts of the first and second clamp parts and prevent the first and second clamp parts from pivoting to a position which enables the gunwale to pass through the stem portion of the aperture.

20 6. The method according to claim 5, wherein in step (c) the shoulder portions of the first clamp part and the second clamp part are positioned on opposed sides of the gunwale, wherein

the nose parts of the first and second clamp parts extend around at least a portion of the gunwale to contact the shoulder portions.

7. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

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- f) mounting at least one bracket to at least one of the first and second clamp parts; and
- g) mounting at least one item to the bracket, wherein the item is operative to pivot with respect to the clamp.

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8. The method according to claim 7, wherein in step (f) the at least one bracket includes a section, wherein the at least one item includes a support member, wherein step (g) includes passing the projection through an opening in the support member, wherein the support member is rotatable to pivot with respect to the projection.

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9. The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

h) transversely mounting at least one fastener through the support member and the projection.

10. The method according to claim 9, wherein in step (f) the projection is elongated in a first direction generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the projection relative to a second direction generally perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the projection, wherein opposed portions of at least two side surfaces of the projection extend in converging directions 5 at an angle that is less than 90 degrees.

11. The method according to claim 9, wherein the projection includes at least one aperture therethrough which transverses the longitudinal axis of the projection, wherein in step (f) the at least one fastener extends through the at least one aperture.

10. 12. The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

15 f) urging the first and second clamp parts to pivot with a tensioning device in operative connection with both the first and second clamp parts.

13. The method according to claim 1, wherein prior to step (c) further comprising:

20 f) placing at least one cushioning insert between the gunwale and the first and second clamp parts.

14. A method for mounting items to a gunwale of a boat comprising:

a) placing two clamp parts adjacent opposed sides of a gunwale of a boat, wherein each clamp part include a nose part which curves around an uppermost point on the gunwale; and

5 b) fastening the clamp parts together with at least one fastener that extends through each nose part of the clamp parts, wherein the fastened clamp parts form a clamp with an aperture including an opening portion that extends around the gunwale, wherein the aperture further includes a stem portion that extends adjacent each side of a portion of a hull of the boat which is in operative connection with the gunwale, wherein a width of the stem portion is narrower than the width of the

10 gunnel.

15. The method according to claim 14, wherein step (b) includes:

c) placing a nose part of a first one of the clamp parts adjacent a shoulder portion of a second one of the clamp part; and

15 d) placing a nose part of the second one of the clamp parts adjacent a shoulder portion of the first one of the clamp parts;

20 wherein the shoulder portions extend adjacent the opposed sides of the gunwale, wherein the clamp parts are operative to pivot with respect to each other about the at least one fastener, wherein the shoulder portions of each of the clamp parts are operative

to contact the adjacent nose parts of each of the clamp parts and prevent the clamp parts from pivoting to a position which enables the gunwale to pass through the stem portion of the aperture.

5 16. An apparatus of mounting items to a gunwale of a boat comprising:

at least two clamp parts, wherein each clamp part include a nose part and a shoulder portion;

10 at least one fastener which extends through each nose part of the clamp parts, wherein the clamp parts are operative to pivot with respect to each other about the at least one fastener;

15 wherein the nose part of a first one of the clamp parts is operative to extend into abutting contact with the shoulder portion of a second one of the clamp parts, wherein the nose part of the second one of the clamp parts is operative to extend into abutting contact with the shoulder portion of the first one of the clamp parts;

20 an aperture bounded by the clamp parts, wherein the aperture includes an opening portion that is operative to extend around the gunwale of a boat, wherein the aperture further includes a stem portion that is operative to extend adjacent each side of a portion of a hull of the boat, wherein a width of the stem portion is

narrower than the width of the gunnel, wherein the shoulder portions of each of the clamp parts are operative to contact the adjacent nose parts of each of the clamp parts and prevent the clamp parts from pivoting to a position which enables the gunwale to pass through the stem portion of the aperture.

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17. The apparatus according to claim 16, furthering comprising:

The boat, wherein the boat includes the hull, wherein the hull includes the gunwale.

18. An apparatus of mounting items to a gunwale of a boat comprising:

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a boat, wherein the boat includes a hull, wherein the hull includes a gunwale;

a clamp, wherein the clamp includes:

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at least two clamp parts, wherein each clamp part include a nose part and a shoulder portion;

at least one fastener which extends through each nose part of the clamp parts;

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wherein the nose part of a first one of the clamp parts extends adjacent the shoulder portion of a second one of the clamp parts, wherein the nose part of the second one of the clamp parts extends adjacent the shoulder portion of the first

one of the clamp parts, wherein the shoulder portions extend adjacent opposed sides of the gunwale, wherein the nose parts of each of the clamp parts extend around at least a portion of the gunwale to contact the shoulder portions;

5 an aperture bounded by the clamp parts, wherein the aperture includes an opening portion that extends around the gunwale, wherein the aperture further includes a stem portion that extends adjacent each side of a portion of the hull, wherein a width of the stem portion is narrower than the width of the gunnel.

10 19. The apparatus according to claim 18, wherein the clamp parts are operative to pivot with respect to each other about the at least one fastener, wherein the shoulder portions of each of the clamp parts are operative to contact the adjacent nose parts of each of the clamp parts and prevent the clamp parts from pivoting to a position which enables the gunwale to pass through the stem portion of the aperture.

15 20. The apparatus according to claim 19, further comprising at least one bracket in pivoting connection with at least one of the first and second clamp parts.

20 21. The apparatus according to claim 20, further comprising a support member in pivoting connection with the at least one bracket, wherein the support member includes an opening to a hollow interior within the support member, wherein in the bracket includes a

projection that extends into the support member, wherein the support member is operative to pivot with respect to the projection.

22. The apparatus according to claim 21, further comprising at least one fastener
5 transversely mounted through the support member and the projection.

23. The apparatus according to claim 22, wherein the projection is elongated in a direction that is generally perpendicular to a longitudinal axis of the projection relative to a second direction that is perpendicular to the longitudinal axis of the projection, wherein
10 opposed portions of at least two side surfaces of the projection extend in converging directions at an angle that is less than 90 degrees.

24. The apparatus according to claim 23, wherein the projection includes at least one aperture therethrough which transverses the longitudinal axis of the projection, wherein the at
15 least one fastener extends through the at least one aperture that transverse the longitudinal axis of the projection.

25. The apparatus according to claim 18, further a tensional device in operative connection with both the first and second clamp parts, wherein the tensioning device is
20 operative to urge the clamp parts to pivot.

26. The apparatus according to claim 18, further comprising at least one cushioning insert between the gunwale and the first and second clamp parts.